



HOWARD COUNTY CEMETERY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning

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July 2017 Minutes

Tuesday, July 11, 2017; 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

The bi-monthly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board will be held in the Ilchester Room at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. All cases are public meetings unless otherwise indicated. All inquiries should be made to: 410-313-2350.

Members Present: Liz Larney, Chair; Fred Dorsey; Edward Glawe; Chip Plitt

Absent: Mike Bennett

Staff Present: Beth Burgess, Ken Short, Yvette Zhou

Public: David Zinner, Liaison to the Maryland Advisory Council on Cemetery Oversight; Melinda Chaney Farnsworth, Secretary of Savage Cemetery Company of Howard County; Ron Brown, President of Savage Cemetery Company of Howard County; Jerry Rushing, Vice President of Savage Cemetery Company of Howard County;

General Topics

Cemetery Updates from the Plan Review Process:

Rosa Bonheur; #37-9:

- Corridor Square, adjacent to Rosa Bonheur, was submitted as a Sketch Plan June 2017.
- The developer, Mr. Levy, and Ms. Warden, representative of Rosa Bonheur Society, have been in conversation about the development project and the potential for Mr. Levy to purchase the cemetery and have Rosa Bonheur Society manage it. Mr. Levy is considering options.
- Plan allows a 12-foot wide access to Dorsey Road from the Rosa Bonheur circular road.
- RCD pdox comments advised to provide the required 30-foot setback from all burials.
- Plan shows Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park to have a hedge or fence buffer from the development entrance.
- Mr. Zinner will be meeting with the group next week to discuss further plans.

Enclave at Tierney Farm; 34-1:

- Phase 2 of the Final plan is complete.
- Developer does not own the cemetery and has no responsibility for the cemetery.

- Developer offered verbal commitment to Ms. Osgood, a descendant, and said they are committed to considering what can be done to clean-up the cemetery and will follow-up with Ms. Osgood. Ms. Osgood will contact Andy Zepp, a fellow descendant, to help with the clean-up.

Clark Cemetery at Walnut Creek; #28-2:

- Developer has the cemetery set apart on a separate lot adjacent to Lot 89.
- The cemetery was located at 4994 Sheppard Lane but is now accessed by Catalpa Court.
- Plan review is complete and the majority of the house construction is built out.

South Point in Elkridge; #38-8:

- This was a 2010 Project off of Old Washington Road in Elkridge which is complete.
- The cemetery was discovered on 1850 deed and there are 2 burials in Open Space on non-buildable lot.

Gaither's Chance; #28-5:

- Final plan was in 2014 but is still under development.
- Has historic house called "Great Expectations" on a separate parcel.
- A neighbor reported the headstones were down. Cemetery area is newly fenced off that defines the perimeter clearly.
- DPZ encouraged the owner to restore the historic house, adjacent to the cemetery, by utilizing the 25% property tax credit instead of demolishing the house.

Gosnell on Sunell Property; #17-6:

- Sunell Property submitted Environmental Concept Plan in June 2015 but there has been no update since 2015.
- Cemetery noted to be located behind the farmhouse, which is to remain on lot 36.
- The note on the development plan states the cemetery is to remain on lot 46 in open space which is not close to the development of the houses.

Reimensneider on Redd Property:

- Family requested disinterment of 11 graves and the State's Attorney had no objection.
- Elm Street will disinter the remains to Zion cemetery.
- Howard County Code Sec 16.1306 Removal prior to development states, "If a property owner removes human remains from a *cemetery* prior to entering the development or subdivision process, then any subsequent development of the area formerly occupied by the *cemetery* shall be prohibited." Since this disinterment is happening after plan submittal, the area can be developed. In effect, since the family petitioned the state's attorney to move the graves and the State's Attorney had no objection to the request, neither the County, nor the Planning Board, nor the CPAB have a continuing role in this question. As we understand, the graves will be moved and per our subdivision regulations the former grave site can be developed.
- Lot 33 and Lot 34 will be developed and have a house on each lot where the Reimensneider family was once buried.
- Ms. Burgess said the Reimensneider cemetery will go to Council to add this history to the Historic Cemetery Site list and note the location of the remains.
- Redd & Sipes development is currently in the Preliminary Plan.
- Ms. Burgess submitted pdoc comments that CPAB requested the disinterred cemetery area to remain as open space and not become developable lots.

- It was discussed who paid for the disinterment and Ms. Burgess stated that the County does not pay to disinter remains, rather it would be privately paid for either by either the developer or the family making the request.

Savage Community Cemetery:

- Ms. Burgess spoke to Ms. Rushing, a Board member of the Savage Community Cemetery (SCC) and received an update. Other members of the Board are in attendance and also updated the Board.
- Cemetery ownership is making progress with being in compliance with the State; SCC applied for the non-profit status and are awaiting approval.
- The SCC Board is seeking funding for repairs and maintenance of the cemetery.
- The SCC Board has concerns for a citizen doing repairs on monuments that are a danger to them, others, and the headstones. The Board agreed citizens should not be doing repairs on monuments without professional expertise.
- The SCC Board has created a Facebook page, they participated in Savage Day Festival, installed a new sign at the entrance, and they are meeting with the Savage Community Association.
- There was a cemetery clean up held June 6, 2017 and the next clean-up is schedule for October 2017.
- The SCC Board applied for the Trader Foundation Grant to reset fallen headstones.
- They sent notice of intent to Tegeler Monument Co. to reset headstones and to Maryland Land Surveyors to have the property corners marked.
- SDAT revived corporation and approved in good standing
- They conducted a field survey to document the lists of names on each headstone to determine the location of each burial.
- The SCC Board created Rules & Regulations. The Final draft should to be complete in July 2017

Updates: Prisoner cemetery clean-up teams

- Mr. Zinner is working with the Office of Cemetery oversight about prisoners doing work at cemeteries. Mr. Zinner said the Proposal was positively received and they are presenting the proposal to the Coalition this weekend.
- The Proposal would allow six prisoners with one guard to work in a cemetery for the cost of \$300 for 8 hours of work. The cemetery would need to provide their own equipment.
- Mr. Zinner will further discussion with the prison and organizations to develop a specific plan.
- Mr. Zinner thought this could be incorporated into the 2018 grant communications as an opportunity for the cemetery owner. Ms. Burgess agreed once the plan is confirmed, the information can be included in the CPAB outreach letter.
- The SCC Board volunteered SCC to be the pilot program since they have a tremendous need for landscape and clean-up.
- Mr. Zinner said a CPAB endorsement letter may be needed once the program is in process.

2017 Cemetery Grants Recap:

- Whipps: \$500 grant; the work is complete and the grant has been issued.
Scope of work included stone work on the main entrance column and annual landscaping including 20 tons of mulch for pathways.
- Bowling Green: \$1,000 grant; the work is complete and the grant has been issued.
Scope of work included a new wood fence that provided protection of the cemetery and 2 gates that allow mowers and trucks to access for maintenance.
- St. Paul: \$1,500 grant; the work is complete and the grant has been issued.
Scope of work included removal of a fallen tree and the installation of a wood staircase for accessibility and erosion control.
- VFW: \$500; the work is complete and the grant has been issued.

Scope of work included a new wood fence, clean-up of the site, and a new entrance archway.

- Oak Grove: has not completed work but Ms. Holland, the applicant, has kept Ms. Burgess updated about delays and progress.
- Ms. Burgess shared the grant has been successful in that 4 out of 5 projects are complete and all the grant funds have been spent except for one \$1,500 grant.
- It is confirmed that DPZ has earmarked a \$5,000 budgeted for new FY2018 grant and the CPAB subcommittee is willing to participate in FY2018.

Hands on History Day:

- Ms. Larney and Mr. Zinner are unable to participate for Hands on History Day. Mr. Plitt and Mr. Dorsey can participate on Thursday, August 10th at the fairgrounds.
- CPAB discussed the update of cemetery brochure to include the FY2018 grant and for the slideshow to include recent before and after cemetery clean up photos. DPZ staff will make those updates.

Outreach:

- Mr. Zinner shared that the Howard County's Cycle to health will host a bike ride around August 24. There will be 15-30 riders are expected to join. Mr. Dorsey worked with Mr. Zinner in picking five cemeteries on a planned bike route and prepared information on each cemetery for the riders to learn the interesting history. Mr. Dorsey chose a variety of sites to illustration well maintained sites and those in need of work.

Others:

- Mr. Dorsey moved to approve the March and May minutes. Mr. Plitt seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting, Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 10am in George Howard building